

REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS AT MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1903.

Office of the Government Statist,
Melbourne, 25th September, 1903.

To the Honorable Sir John See, K.C.M.G., Premier of New South Wales.

SIR,

We, the representative statisticians of the federated States of Australia, having attended the Conference suggested by you to consider matters bearing upon uniformity of statistics of population of the federated States, have the honour to submit to you the following report:—

The Conference formally assembled at Melbourne on 22nd September, 1903, when all the federated States were represented.

The following are the names of the various representatives:—T. A. Coghlan, Government Statistician, New South Wales; J. Hughes, Registrar-General, Queensland; L. H. Sholl, Under-Secretary and Government Statist, South Australia; R. M. Johnston, Registrar-General and Government Statistician, Tasmania; W. McLean, Government Statist, Victoria; and E. G. Stenberg, Chief Compiler of Statistics, Western Australia.

Mr. W. McLean, Government Statist of Victoria, was unanimously chosen as Chairman of the Conference.

As a result of the deliberations of the members of the Conference, the recommendations embraced in this report were finally adopted.

UNIFORM BASIS OF ESTIMATING POPULATION.

1. That the Census of 1901 be taken as the starting point, and future estimates of population be published from that basis.
2. That the Registrar-Generals' returns of Births and Deaths, and the Customs and Railway Departments' Certificates of Arrivals and Departures, be accepted for the compilations.
3. That 10 per cent. be added to the railway returns of arrivals and departures by land for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia, to allow for unrecorded traffic by rail and road.
4. That the following percentages on recorded departures by sea be added thereto for the unrecorded departures:—

New South Wales	...	...	...	9
Victoria	...	...	...	9
Queensland	...	...	...	10
South Australia	...	...	...	7
Western Australia	...	...	...	5
Tasmania	...	...	...	12.5

5. That the elements of population be published quarterly on a uniform basis.
6. That where the distribution of sexes of persons travelling overland is unknown, the proportion of males and females be fixed on the basis of the recorded sea traffic for the corresponding period.

7. That full-blooded aborigines be excluded from the populations, but shown on a separate line in the estimates of population.

8. That henceforth the mean population of each of the four quarters be taken, and the mean of these be accepted as the mean of the year.

9. That seamen discharged or having deserted, and all seamen signing on, be taken into account as arrivals and departures respectively.

10. That the populations of the various States as at 30th June last be fixed as follow :—

Victoria	...	...	...	1,208,070
Queensland	...	...	...	512,760
South Australia*	...	...	...	365,020
Western Australia	...	...	...	221,990
Tasmania	...	...	...	176,960
New South Wales	...	...	...	1,415,760

*Including population of Northern Territory, 4,312.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

W. McLEAN, Chairman.

T. A. COGHLAN.

J. HUGHES.

R. M. JOHNSTON.

L. H. SHOLL.

E. G. STENBERG.

APPENDIX.

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS OF THE FEDERAL STATES OF AUSTRALIA.

MEMBERS.

T. A. Coghlan, Esq., New South Wales.	R. M. Johnston, Esq., Tasmania.
J. Hughes, Esq., Queensland.	W. McLean, Esq., Victoria.
L. H. Sholl, Esq., South Australia.	E. G. Stenberg, Esq., Western Australia.

DAYS OF MEETING.

Tuesday, 22nd September, 1903.
 Wednesday, 23rd September, 1903.
 Thursday, 24th September, 1903.
 Friday, 25th September, 1903.

MINUTES OF CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS.

Called at the suggestion of Sir John See, for the purpose of arriving at a uniform basis of estimating the populations of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, held at Melbourne, on

Tuesday, 22nd September, 1903, at 2.30 p.m.

Present—Mr. T. A. Coghlan, representing New South Wales; Mr. W. McLean, Victoria; Mr. J. Hughes, Queensland; Mr. L. H. Sholl, South Australia; Mr. R. M. Johnston, Tasmania; and Mr. E. G. Stenberg, Western Australia.

Mr. Coghlan proposed, and Mr. Hughes seconded—That Mr. McLean should act as chairman.

Mr. Coghlan, at the request of the Chairman, briefly explained his proposals in regard to the matter, and the steps he considered necessary to obtain the desired uniformity.

Mr. McLean moved—That the principle adopted by this Conference to secure uniformity of estimating the populations should be applied as from the Census of 31st March, 1901, and that the population as estimated by each State on 31st December next, and in future, be published upon this basis.

Seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Carried.

It was agreed that the Registrar-Generals' returns of Births and Deaths, and the Certificates of the Customs Department and of the Railways Departments of Arrivals and Departures should be accepted for the compilation.

Consideration was then given to the error of estimate that was made during the inter-censal period 1891-1901, in order to fix upon a percentage allowance for the future. The figures for Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania were considered.

Discussion was deferred till next day, when the Queensland figures would be considered.

The meeting at 4.50 p.m. adjourned till 11 a.m. next day.

W. McLEAN,
Chairman.

23/9/03.

Wednesday, 23rd September, 1903, at 11 a.m.

Present—Mr. McLean (in the chair), Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Sholl, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Stenberg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The figures for Queensland were supplied by Mr. Hughes, and the tabulated returns of the various States presented by the Chairman, 10 per cent. being added to recorded arrivals and departures by land. The percentages of unrecorded departures to recorded departures by sea thus arrived at were—

New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.98
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.62
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.14
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.40
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.67
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.56

The question of adopting a uniform basis for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia was considered.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Coghlan moved—That the overland returns for those States, between which there is overland traffic, *i.e.*, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia, be increased by 10 per cent. on both arrivals and departures recorded by rail, to allow for unrecorded traffic by rail and road.

Seconded by Mr. McLean.

Carried.

Mr. Coghlan moved—That for the unrecorded departures by sea, there shall be added these percentages of the recorded departures by sea, being those recommended by the statisticians of the respective States:—

New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.0
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.5

Seconded by Mr. Stenberg.

Carried.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the question of the compilation of sexes of persons travelling overland was considered, and the desirability of adopting a uniform basis was affirmed.

Mr. Coghlan moved—That where the distribution of sexes is unknown, and cannot be ascertained from any records, the proportions of males and females arriving and departing by land be fixed on the basis of the recorded sea traffic for the corresponding period.

Seconded by Mr. Johnston.

Carried.

Mr. Coghlan moved—That the full-blooded aborigines be excluded from the population ; but that the number be shown on a separate line in the various estimates of population.

Seconded by Mr. Sholl.

Carried.

Mr. Johnston pointed out the desirability of having some simple uniform plan of determining the mean populations for each year.

Mr. Johnston moved—That five points, 1st January, 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December, be taken ; and that a fifth of the sum of the populations on those dates be accepted as the mean population for the year.

Seconded by Mr. Hughes.

After discussion, Mr. Johnston withdrew his motion, and substituted the following:—That henceforth the mean of each of the four quarters be taken, and the mean of these be accepted as the mean of the year.

Seconded by Mr. Hughes.

Carried.

Mr. Stenberg moved—That the various offices take into consideration the desirability that in computing the population returns, all seamen discharged or having deserted, and all seamen signing on, should be taken into account as arrivals or departures, in the manner most suitable to each State.

Seconded by Mr. Johnston.

Carried.

Mr. Hughes brought forward the desirability of having a separate return formulated of the passengers carried on all vessels at their first arrival, and on all vessels at their final departure from each State. This was the best method of computing the population of Australia as a whole, and would check the compilations of the various State officers. At the Hobart Conference all the statisticians had agreed upon the desirability of such a method.

The question was deferred till next day.

Mr. Coghlan moved—That having determined the method in which the populations of the States shall be estimated, this conference invites the Chairman to have prepared for its consideration a statement showing what was the population of each State on 30th June last, as estimated on the lines laid down.

Seconded by Mr. Stenberg.

Carried.

The Chairman promised to have the estimates drawn up, as far as the figures in his office permitted, and to let the other members of the Conference know what was deficient on the next day.

At 4.30 p.m. the Conference adjourned till 11 a.m. next day.

W. McLEAN,
Chairman.

24th September, 1903.

Thursday, 24th September, 1903, at 11 a.m.

Present—Mr. McLean (in the chair), Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Sholl, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Stenberg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The question of the passenger traffic shipping returns, brought forward by Mr. Hughes on the previous day, was referred to by Mr. Coghlan. He had seen Sir Wm. Lyne and the Controller-General of Customs. Sir Wm. Lyne recommended that the matter should be left in abeyance.

This was agreed to.

The Chairman pointed out the desirability, since the sources of information and the percentage additions had been fixed for all the States, of adopting a uniform plan for the publication of the figures in the quarterly returns. The Conference agreed that, while the statement should contain all the elements needed to make the various estimates, it was undesirable to bind the statisticians down to any set form.

At 12.30 p.m. the Conference adjourned till 11 a.m. next day.

W. McLEAN,
Chairman.

25th September, 1903.

Friday, 25th September, 1903, at 11 a.m.

Present—Mr. McLean (in the chair), Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Sholl, Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Stenberg.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Hughes stated that he had given further consideration to the percentage to be added to the Queensland departures by sea for the unrecorded departures, and concluded that nine was too low.

Mr. McLean expressed the opinion that the percentage for Victoria was also possibly too low, but he was unable to suggest an increase, not having sufficient information at present.

Mr. Hughes moved—That the percentage to be added to the recorded departures by sea be ten instead of nine for Queensland.

Seconded by Mr. Coghlan.

Carried.

The following estimates of population on 30th June, 1903, were then adopted:—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	1,208,070
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	512,760
South Australia*	...	...	...	...	...	365,020
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	221,990
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	176,960
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	1,415,760

*Including population of Northern Territory, 4,312.

Mr. Johnston moved—That the Chairman be empowered to prepare the necessary tabulation of the estimated population on 30th June, 1903, of the six States of the Commonwealth, in accordance with the principles adopted by the members of the Conference, and in due course to submit the same with report to the Honorable Sir John See, convener of the Conference, subject to certain further information to be supplied to the Chairman by Messrs. Coghlan and Sholl, as regards the detailed figures relating to their respective States.

Seconded by Mr. Stenberg.

Carried.

The Conference, on the motion of Mr. Hughes, passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. McLean for his services as chairman.

Mr. F. D. Rossiter was also thanked, on the motion of Mr. Coghlan, for his services as secretary.

W. McLEAN,
Chairman.

25th September, 1903.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF VICTORIA.

Population Census, 1901 (exclusive of full-blooded aborigines, 271)	...	...	...	...	...	1,201,070
Births, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	23,266
Deaths, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	11,775
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	+ 11,491

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,598
Departures as recorded	64,079	
Allowance, 9 per cent.	5,767	

Loss, seawards	- 5,248
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Migration by Land, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	15,838
Departures	12,269

Gain overland	+ 3,569
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Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901	1,210,882
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Births, 1902	30,461
Deaths, 1902	16,177

Natural increase	+ 14,284
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Migration by Sea, 1902—

Arrivals	87,557
Departures as recorded	97,933	
Allowance, 9 per cent.	8,814	

106,747

Loss seawards	- 19,190
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Migration by Land, 1902 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	23,867
Departures	18,393

18,393

Gain overland	+ 5,474
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Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902	1,211,450
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Births to 30th June, 1903	14,745
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	8,030

Natural increase	+ 6,715
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Migration by Sea to 30th June, 1903—

Arrivals	29,743
Departures as recorded	37,712	
Allowance, 9 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	3,394	
						—	41,106
Loss seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	—11,363

Migration by Land to 30th June, 1903 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,318
Departures	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,046
Gain overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	+1,272
Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208,074
Population on the 30th June, 1903 (as adopted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,208,070

W. Mc LEAN,
Government Statist.

15/12/03.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF QUEENSLAND.

Population Census, 1901 (exclusive of full-blooded aborigines, 5,137)	...	...	...	...	...	...	498,129
Births, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,881
Deaths, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,344
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+6,537

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,831
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,874
Allowance, 10 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,388
							—
							15,262
Gain seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	+569

Migration by Land, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,145
Departures	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,436
Gain overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	+709

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901

Births, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,216
Deaths, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,204
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+8,012
							—

Migration by Sea, 1902—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,762
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,837
Allowance, 10 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,084
							—
							22,921
Loss seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	—5,159

Migration by Land, 1902 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,952
Departures	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,896
Gain overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	+2,056

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902

Births to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,591
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,633
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+2,958
							—

Migration by Sea, to 30th June, 1903—							
Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,767
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	10,231	
Allowance, 10 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	1,024	
						—	11,255
Loss seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	— 2,488
Migration by Land to 30th June, 1903 (plus 10 per cent.)—							
Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,334
Departures	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,897
Gain overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	+1,437
Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	512,760
Population on 30th June, 1903 (as adopted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	512,760

21/12/03.

J. HUGHES,
Registrar-General.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROPER.

Migration by Land to 30th June, 1903 (plus 10 per cent.)—

17/12/03.

L. H. SHOLL,
Government Statist.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Loss seawards - 25

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,569
Births, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Deaths, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Decrease	...	...	...	...	...	...	-58

Decrease 58

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,295
Births to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

Loss seawards - 15

Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,125
Plus half-caste aborigines	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Population, 30/6/03 (as adopted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,312

17/12/03.

L. H. SHOLL,
Government Statist.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,964
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,599	
Allowance, 5 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	780	
							—	16,379
Gain seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+7,585

Migration by Land, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

(No returns; migration considered negligible.)

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	194,109
Births, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,232	
Deaths, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,823	
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+3,409

Migration by Sea, 1902—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,860
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	21,001	
Allowance, 5 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	1,050	
						—	22,051	
Gain seawards	+15,809

Migration by Land, 1902—

(No returns; migration considered negligible.)

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213,327
Births to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,280	
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,455	
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+1,825

Migration by Sea to 30th June, 1903—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,110
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	9,781	
Allowance, 5 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	489	
						—	10,270	
Gain seawards	+6,840

Migration by Land to 30th June, 1903—

(No returns; migration considered negligible.)

Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221,992
Population on the 30th June, 1903 (as adopted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	221,990

Perth, Western Australia,
28/12/03.E. G. STENBERG,
Chief Compiler,
Government Statistician's Office.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF TASMANIA.

Population Census, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172,475
Births, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,703	
Deaths, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,350	
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+2,353

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,612
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,167	
Allowance, 12½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,896	
							—	17,063

Loss seawards

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	174,377
Births, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,085	
Deaths, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,904	
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+3,181

Migration by Sea, 1902—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,550
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	24,572	
Allowance, 12½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	3,071	
							27,643
Loss seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	— 93

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902

Births to 30th June, 1903	2,451
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	1,078

Natural increase	+ 1,373
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Migration by Sea to 30th June, 1903 —

Arrivals	15,498
Departures as recorded	15,445	
Allowance, 12½ per cent.	1,931	
							17,376

Loss seawards	— 1,878
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Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903

Population, 30/6/03 (as adopted)

18/12/03.

R. M. JOHNSTON,
Government Statistician.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Population Census, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,359,133
Births, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,601
Deaths, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,263
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 16,338

Migration by Sea, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	54,823
Departures as recorded	41,743	
Allowance, 9 per cent.	3,757	
							45,500

Gain seawards	+ 9,323
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Migration by Land, 1/4/01 to 31/12/01 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	66,314
Departures	71,579
Loss overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	— 5,265

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1901

Births, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,835
Deaths, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,646
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 21,189

Migration by Sea, 1902—

Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	...	81,190
Departures as recorded	61,721
Allowance, 9 per cent.	5,555
							67,276

Gain seawards	+ 13,914
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Migration by Land, 1902 (plus 10 per cent.)—

Arrivals	78,984
Departures	85,995
Loss overland	— 7,011

Estimated Population on 31st December, 1902	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,407,621
Births to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	17,862	
Deaths to 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	8,612	
Natural increase	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 9,250
Migration by Sea to 30th June, 1903—							
Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	37,910	
Departures as recorded	...	...	...	...	...	32,657	
Allowance, 9 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	2,939	
						35,596	
Gain seawards	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 2,314
Migration by Land to 30th June, 1903 (plus 10 per cent.)—							
Arrivals	...	...	...	...	...	39,774	
Departures	...	...	...	...	...	38,914	
Gain overland	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 860
Estimated Population on 30th June, 1903	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,420,045
Less full-blooded aborigines	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,287
Population, 30/6/03 (exclusive of full-blooded aborigines)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,415,758
Population on the 30th June, 1903 (as adopted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,415,760

T. A. COGHLAN,
Government Statistician.

12/11/03.

DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCE FOR UNRECORDED DEPARTURES, INTER-CENSAL PERIOD, 1891-1901.

	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.				Western Australia.	Tasmania.					
				Proper.	Northern Territory.									
Population, Census 1891	1,132,234	..	1,140,405	..	393,718	..	315,212	..	5,219	..	49,782	..	146,667
" , 1901	1,359,133	..	1,201,341	..	498,129	..	357,980	..	4,624	..	184,124	..	172,475
Total Increase	226,899	..	60,936	..	104,411	..	42,768	..	..	..	134,342	..	25,808
Decrease	595	..	..	..	..
Natural Increase—														
Births	381,261	..	335,288	..	143,739	..	99,923	..	271	..	33,672	..	48,374
Deaths	154,585	..	162,775	..	56,021	..	41,384	..	516	..	17,771	..	20,387
Excess of Births	226,676	..	172,513	..	87,718	..	58,539	..	..	..	15,901	..	27,987
" , Deaths	245	..	..	..	..
Gain or Loss by Migration *	..	+ 223	..	- 111,577	..	+ 16,693	..	- 15,771	..	- 350	..	+ 118,441	..	- 2,179
Overland Migration (plus 10 per cent.)—														
Arrivals	660,673	..	586,571	..	102,219	..	411,697						
Departures	686,415	..	568,679	..	101,362	..	398,280						
Gain or Loss Overland *	..	- 25,742	..	+ 17,892	..	+ 857	..	+ 13,417						
Recorded Migration by Sea—														
Arrivals	703,630	..	810,401	..	208,146	..	362,896	..	4,372	..	274,379	..	216,484
Departures	621,818	..	857,385	..	171,479	..	364,959	..	4,490	..	148,981	..	192,560
Excess of Arrivals or of Departures †	+ 81,812	..	- 46,984	..	+ 36,667	..	- 2,063	..	- 118	..	+ 125,398	..	+ 23,924
Unrecorded Departures by Sea	55,847	..	82,485	..	20,831	..	27,125	..	232	..	6,957	..	26,103
" Unrecorded " per cent. of " Recorded " Departures	8.98%	..	9.62%	..	12.14%	..	7.40%	..	5.16%	..	4.67%	..	13.56%
Approved Allowance from 1.4.01 for Unrecorded De- by Sea	9%	..	9%	..	10%	..	7%	..	5%	..	5%	..	12.5%

NOTE.—In order to allow for Overland traffic other than rail, the recorded railway traffic has been increased by 10 per cent.

* Gain shown by plus sign; loss by minus sign.

† Excess of arrivals shown by plus sign; excess of departures by minus sign.